Mr. D. NARAYANA RAJU :—"In his report, the Collector says that where the bunds are irrigated by percolation, they are charged separately. So, when there is no separate wate-rrate for the field itself, how can there be a separate water-rate for the plantains and trees on the bunds when they were irrigated by percolation ?"

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—"I have said again that they have charged half the wet assessment."

Panchayat Forests

Forest panchayats in Kurnool district.

* 1267 Q.—Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state, in reference to answer given to question No. 960 on 29th November 1928,—

(a) whether he has received the report called for ; and

(b) if he has received it, whether he will be pleased to lay it on the table ?

A.—(a) & (b) The report called for has not been received yet.

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—"May I know whether the hon. the Revenue Member is prepared to expedite the answer to this question, so that I may have it at the next meeting ?"

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—"A reminder has been sent ; I shall see a special reminder is sent."

Public Service

Maintenance of registers under the Tottenham Scheme.

* 1268 Q.—Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government or the Board of Revenue have passed an order on what is called the "Tottenham Scheme" under which no Revenue office need maintain any register showing the receipt or despatch of papers and if so, to what effect ; and

(b) whether under the scheme any officer keeping any register like that referred to in (a) would be punished ?

A.—(a) No such order has been passed.

(b) The scheme nowhere prescribes punishment for maintaining registers. Apart from the scheme the maintenance of unauthorized registers to the neglect of prescribed ones might in certain circumstances be a fault meriting punishment.

Reforms

Evidence before the Simon Commission.

* 1269 Q.—Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the number and names of the officers who are appearing before the Simon Commission on behalf of the Government of Madras ;

(b) whether such officers are given the liberty to express their own views in reply to questions by members of the Commission; and

(c) the number and names of officers that are allowed to appear in camera?

A.—(a), (b) & (c) No arrangements have yet been made.

Secretariat

Duties of the Superintendent, Central Record Branch of the Chief Secretariat.

*1270 Q.—BASHEER AHMAD SAYEED SAHIB Bahadur: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state what the duties of the Superintendent of the Central Record Branch of the Chief Secretariat are?

A.—The Central Record Branch which is attached to the Secretariat and is in the Fort St. George is the repository of records of recent years, which are frequently required by the Secretariat for reference; these records chiefly comprise originals of non-confidential proceedings of Government of the last five years and printed copies of the proceedings of the last 10 years, and all confidential proceedings more than three years old.

The Superintendent of the Central Record Branch of the Chief Secretariat is in charge of these records. His duties comprise several matters of detail; but put in general terms he is primarily responsible for the safe custody of the records, he supervises the work of a staff consisting of 5 clerks, 14 attenders and 1 peon, ensures prompt compliance with requisitions for records and keeps a vigilant eye on the return of the records to the Central Record Branch. He attends personally to requisitions relating to confidential records.

Settlement

Constitution of a committee to enquire into the economic condition of Kistna and Godavari districts.

*1271-A Q.—Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have accepted the resolution passed by the Legislative Council on 28th November 1928 to constitute a mixed committee to make an open enquiry into the economic condition of Kistna and Godavari districts in connexion with the resettlement; and

(b) if so, when the committee will be formed and what its composition is?

A.—(a) & (b) It is proposed to move the following motion during the present session of the Legislative Council:—

"That with reference to the resolution passed by the Council at the meeting held on 28th November 1928, regarding the appointment of a committee to enquire into the economic condition of the districts of Kistna, Godavari East and Godavari West, the Council do proceed to elect a committee of five of its members to make the enquiry and to report to Government by the 1st October 1929."